

November 2, 1951.

Dr. Mortimer P. Starr,
Department of Bacteriology,
University of California,
Davis, California.

Dear Mort:

We have recently completed "SRP" screening tests on the set of cultures you had sent us a few months ago. I am fairly certain that I wrote to you in thanks and acknowledgment about the time they were received, but can't find the carbon, and am not sure just what I wrote.

From the labels, I gather that many of the cultures were appreciable resistant to streptomycin. As my previous letter may have lamented, these are not suitable for SRP testing.

There were 38 cultures altogether of which a suitable test could be made. None of these 38 appears to be fertile with our tester stock. Except for two or three which fermented cellubiose, or which appeared to be rather gummy, they looked like typical *E. coli*.

This type of negative result is no less interesting than the finding of interfertile strains in other collections. I am almost convinced that there is a real difference in this respect between isolations of human origin, and those of other sources. However, except as they generally conform to type coli, the interfertile strains show no obvious distinctive cultural or serological properties. This is all the more reason for the further examination of type and deviant forms from various sources. If you can give us any further assistance in this respect, by way of further isolates of (streptomycin-sensitive) coli, I should be most grateful.

Would you give us instructions on the disposition of the cultures and glassware? I will be glad to have the tubes cleaned up and returned, although this will take some time. On the other hand, most of the slants are still intact, and could be returned to you if you should have recalled any further use for them.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg